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WASHINGTON POST

19 June 1983

Nicaraguan Bares Plan to Discredit Foes

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The recent expulsion of three U.S. diplomats from Nicaragua was the product of a two-year plan, authorized at high levels of the leftist Sandinista government in Managua, to discredit democratic opposition forces there through a web of false accusations, according to a former official of Nicaraguan state security.

The former official, Miguel Bolanos Hunter, said he was in charge of surreptitiously filming American diplomats as part of the plan and participated in meetings on the operation that were presided over by Lenin Cerna, director of the Direccion General de Seguridad del Estado (DGSE), the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry's department of state security.

Bolanos, 24, who led a 60-man guerrilla unit in the final battles that brought the Sandinistas to power in 1979, defected from Nicaragua six weeks ago by hijacking a light plane to Costa Rica. He has

provided an unexpected intelligence bonanza for the very U.S. agencies he worked against for the last three years.

Bolanos had served briefly after the Nicaraguan revolution as special assistant to the Sandinista army chief of staff, Joaquin Cuadra.

From January 1980 until his defection May 7 he was an official of state security, nearly all of that time a counterintelligence case of-

ficer with special responsibility for surveillance of U.S. Embassy and CIA activities in Nicaragua.

Since leaving Costa Rica about three weeks ago as part of an arrangement with the U.S. Embassy there, Bolanos has been debriefed extensively by State Department and CIA officials.

Access to him was offered to reporters for The Washington Post by State Department officials, who arranged for meetings with Bolanos at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. Washington Post reporters interviewed him there for 13 hours late last week, with no questions barred.

Various independent sources here and in Central America confirmed Bolanos' identity, though it was impossible to obtain confirmation of the details he provided of the secretive and influential internal security apparatus in Nicaragua.

Bolanos' account includes detailed information about the presence and role of Soviet, Cuban, Bulgarian and East German advisers and assistance in the Nicaraguan security apparatus.

The defector said their presence is extensive, with two high-ranking Soviet officers and a Cuban officer assigned as advisers to the 35 Nicaraguans in the counterintelligence section where Bolanos worked.

He said many more such advisers worked with other Nicaraguan military and security forces.

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